

Northampton Aug. 23^d 1840

Yes, dear friend, I am ashamed to have left your three kind letters so long unanswered. The fact is, my thoughts have lain buried under a mass of household cares and hourly trials, which cut off all communication between them and the great topics of universal interest, which constitute the basis of your life. But let that pass. These outward inconveniences, having performed their mission in producing a more perfect patience and a higher trust, should have no second life in recapitulation.

Have you begun to suspect that I am a "pealer"? Have no fear. My detestation of the mean, vile treachery deepens daily. Do you suspect me of indifference to the cause?

To this I plead guilty only on one item, viz: an increasing love of stealing away into secluded, poetic nooks of thought.

This you are aware is my natural home; and my daily cares draw me away so much, that other calls to leave those flowery cells seem more irksome than formerly.

The first spare moment I can find I am going to try to prepare something for the Liberty Bell. I have tried to get subscriptions wherever I thought there was the least chance of success. Mrs. Huntington has given me some hopes, but has not as yet realized them. Roxana Starkweather has

MS. A. 9. 2. 14 # 11
- Tell Mr. Collins I will try to write something for his little monthly tract, as soon as possible.
- You were mistaken in supposing I had any objection to that plan. I have none whatever, though I doubt success. kindest remembrance to Mr. Chapman.

not changed. She is just such an abolitionist as she always was. The supposition that the Presbyterian Church would have ten less members (professors of religion, as they are appropriately called) would at any time have rendered the emancipation of the slaves a doubtful measure in her eyes. I spent some hours in trying to make clear to her mind the causes of separation among abolitionists, and the great principle which required us to co-operate with others for good, whatever might be their Theological opinions, — a principle which had led me cordially to co-operate with Calvinists, though I had ever disliked Calvinism. She assented to my proposition, "provided the opinions of others were founded on Scriptural grounds." And where, oh bigotted individual! is the Council to be found competent to decide for all the world what are Scriptural grounds? And what is to be done with those whom a perpetual unwritten revelation satisfies more abundantly than what is written?

Sep. 6th 1840

Thus far had I written when the Loring's came en masse. We had a charming visit from them — a real refreshing season. I have been looking over your three kind, agreeable letters, and again I am ashamed of my silence. If you had had the wit not to have written, I should have written in order to get an answer; but what motive had I, you foolish sister, when your letters came without the asking?

I like the name of Gestrude much; and, for a rarity, I have nothing which I think better to suggest. I heard of Mary's engagement before I left the city, notwithstanding your secrecy. I could congratulate him in good earnest, because I know what a treasure he has found; but I am too little acquainted with him to judge whether she is fortunate or not. The chosen friend of Garrison and Benson could scarcely be otherwise.

than worthy of the best of wives, and therefore I believe he is. Give my hearty love to them both, and may the blessing of God be with them.

I am thinking that you may really suspect I am about to peel. You may have heard from Northampton that we refused to co-operate with the Rev. Mr. Brown, in certain anti-slavery measures. We did hold back, and I think for sufficient reasons. *sub rosa*, dear friend, I distrust that man. Though his wife lectures, and he approves of it, I think he is of the stuff that N. Org. is made of. His God is a God of physical force, who (I speak not irreverently, for I do not suppose there is any such God) has been obliged to resort to a deal of management to forgive sinners and satisfy his own wrath at the same time. As a man's ideal of God is, so is he. Hence Brown, and others of that ilk,

think to move souls
by machinery & contrivance;
hence they spend their energies
in trying to lash people into

Heaven with a scourge of flames. But it is not because he is a forty-horse-power minister, nor because of my aversion to ride with that hell-fire troop to any field of battle, that we held back from co-operating with him. In the first place there is a warfare going on between his church and the calvinistic; and he urged that, with our assistance, he could stop their holding any more meetings. I liked not this motive. Secondly he acknowledged to me that the N. Org. was based on a false principle, yet he was not ready to avow that he had made a mistake in being its agent. Finding he still had a certain sum of money to collect for the N. O. we positively declined having anything to do with his meetings, unless he would publish in the advertisement that it was called for the benefit of the Massachusetts A. S. Society. We

insisted upon this again and again, as a necessary test. He promised that it should be so advertised, and we agreed to take part in the meeting. He announced our promise pretty extensively; but when the advertisement appeared, it simply said, "All friendly to Anti S. are requested to attend." Of course, we would have no part nor lot in the matter. Again I say, I distrust him; not her.

Love to Caroline, Deborah, Anna, and that sweet "hoon tilly," Lucia. I wish I were a hoon tilly, or even a tilly by grace.

It is late, my pen is bad, my lamp burns dim, and the dogs howl. I must say good night. Yrs Truly L. A. C.

Maria Weston Chapman.

West St.

Boston.

Care of E. G. Loring

1840

Friendly

J. M. Child

The widow Elizabeth Blanchard of Weymouth, mother of the Rev. Ira, has, for the handle of a pot lid, a band of brass, on which is stamped No Slavery. It was worn around the caps of the Revolutionary soldiers, and has descended to her from some fighting ancestor. If it could be obtained for the Fair, would it not be an interesting relic? I merely suggest, according to my vocation. Be Christian enough to write soon and tell me of Mrs. Chapman's health.

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Will try to write something for his little monthly tract as soon as possible